**Genre**

**Genre** is a French word that means "kind" or "type." When we talk about genres of writing, we are talking about different types of writing.

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**Fiction**

**Fiction** is any story that is imaginary or made-up. The events in fictional stories never happened in real life. There are many different types of fictional stories.

**Fantasy** is any story that has unreal parts. It has events that cannot happen in real life.

**Realistic fiction** is a made-up story that takes place in modern times. The events in realistic fiction can happen in real life. The characters are like people you see every day.

**Historical fiction** is a made-up story set in the past (50 or more years ago.) It is based on real historical events or people.

**Science fiction** is a made-up story about future technology and science. It usually takes place in the future, in space, or in a different universe. Science fiction blends scientific fact with fiction.

**Mysteries** are stories where a person solves a crime or a puzzling event. The entire story is centered on a person who looks into the wrongdoing. This person is often a detective.

A **short story** is a short fiction story written in sentences and paragraphs. Its short length allows it to be read in one sitting. It usually has under 10,000 words.

A **novel** is a long fiction story written in sentences and paragraphs. A novel is often broken up by chapters. It usually has over 40,000 words.

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**Folk Literature**

**Folktales** are made-up stories handed down from earlier times. They are told over and over again. They are well-known among a certain group of people.

**Fables** are short stories that teach a lesson about human nature. Characters in fables are often animals that act like people.

**Myths** try to explain how the world works or why things are the way they are. They may try to explain why birds fly or where fire came from. They often have gods, heroes, or animals as characters.

**Fairy tales** are stories that have to do with magic. There are usually magical characters in them like fairies, elves, trolls, or witches. They usually deal with real-life problems. Many begin with "Once upon a time" and end with "happily ever after."

**Tall tales** greatly exaggerate the features or accomplishments of their characters. To exaggerate means to make something bigger, smaller, longer, shorter, better, or worse than it really is. Tall tales usually have events that couldn't possibly happen.

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**Nonfiction**

**Nonfiction**, or informational text, has facts and true information. It is NOT made-up.

An **autobiography** is a piece of writing about the writer's own life. It is a history of a person's life written or told by that person. Therefore, autobiographies are normally written in first-person point of view. This means that the author uses words like "I," "my," and "me" to describe the story.

A **biography** is an account of a person's life written by another person. Therefore, biographies are written in third-person point of view. This means that the author uses words like "he," "they," and "she" to describe the story.

Other **nonfiction texts** include how-to books, science books, history books, cookbooks, manuals, and many more.

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**Poetry**

**Poetry** has lines and stanzas instead of sentences and paragraphs. Sometimes, poems are a story. Other times, they describe ideas or feelings. Poems are compact and imaginative. Many poems have rhyme and rhythm. This gives them a musical sound.

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**Drama**

**Dramas**, or plays, are meant to be performed in front of an audience. They use dialogue (what characters say) to tell a story. Plays are easy to recognize because they are not written in paragraph form. Instead, the words that a character says are written beside the character's name. There are also stage directions. These special instructions describe how the stage should look. They also describe how the characters should look, speak, or act.